

REMARKS

Status of the Claims

Claims 1-2, 4-8, 10, 12, 14-15, and 17-19 are pending in the application. Claims 3, 9, 11, 13, 16, and 20 have been canceled. Claim 1 has been amended to incorporate the recitation of now-canceled claim 3. Specifically, claim 1 has been amended to recite “wherein the concentration of the polymer used for startup is from 20 to 80% by weight, based on the total amount of the mixture used for startup.” Support for this amendment can be found in originally filed claim 3.

Claim Objections

Claims 3, 4, 9-11, 13, 14, 16, 17, and 20 were objected to “as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.” (Office Action, page 5). Applicants wish to thank the Examiner for the indication of allowable subject matter.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

Claims 1, 2, 5, 7, 12, and 19 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) “as being unpatentable over Dostalek (US 5641857) in view of Mastenbroek (US 5138032).” (Office Action, page 2). Claims 6, 15 and 18 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) “as being unpatentable over Dostalek and Mastenbroek in view of Eller (US 6359108).” (Office Action, page 4). Claim 8 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) “as being unpatentable over Dostalek and Mastenbroek in view of Sigwart (US 5939590).” (*Id.*) Applicants submit that each of these rejections have been obviated in view of amended claim 1.

As noted above, claim 1 has been amended to incorporate the recitation of originally filed claim 3. As such, it now recites the recitation of that claim in independent form, which the Examiner indicated as allowable. (Office Action, page 5). All other currently pending claims

are ultimately dependent on this claim. Accordingly, Applicant believes the pending application is in condition for allowance.

Applicants believe no fee is due with this response. If any fee is due, please charge our Deposit Account No. 22-0185, under Order No. 12810-00036-US from which the undersigned is authorized to draw.

Dated: May 10, 2007

Respectfully submitted,

Electronic signature: /Matthew J. Mason/
Matthew J. Mason
Registration No.: 44,904
CONNOLLY BOVE LODGE & HUTZ LLP
1990 M Street, N.W., Suite 800
Washington, DC 20036-3425
(202) 331-7111
(202) 293-6229 (Fax)
Attorney for Applicant

532727_1